

# FDOC



## CAN'T WAIT TO START AGILITY.

Feeling impatient about waiting for the next Agility Foundation Course? Here are some activities you can do to prepare you and your dog before the next course starts.

- Teach your dog to walk and run with you (not formal heeling) off lead on both the left and **right** hand sides. A piece of food or a toy can be used as a motivator. Try switching your dog from one side to the other whilst you are moving. The dog should cross in front of you as you change direction.
- TOYS, toys and more toys. Toys are wonderful motivators for agility. The best are tug toys where the dog is interacting with you. Retrieve is not as good unless the dog returns the toy promptly to you. Some dogs are naturally toy motivated others take a lot more work. Start by pairing any interaction with a toy with some other highly valued reward – usually food.
- Train a good recall. You need to teach your dog to stay with you when you are working off lead and to come promptly. You will have more fun if you can work your dog off lead.
- Train a Wait/Stay. Leave your dog and go a couple of metres then call your dog. The dog should be called to your left or right side (so you face away from your dog), not a formal call to front.
- Learn to use a clicker and practice your clicker skills. Teaching a simple trick like walking backwards is a great exercise. There are several handouts in the clubrooms about using a clicker or ask your obedience instructor.